

**Listing of the Claims:**

The listing of claims below, wherein underlining indicates additions and strikethrough or double bracketing indicates deletions, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.     **(Original)** A method comprising:  
communicatively coupling a removable upgrade decoder to a consumer premise component (CPC), said upgrade decoder being configured to decode a data stream; and  
downloading a computer program code to said CPC, said code enabling said CPC to access said upgrade decoder.
2.     **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said data stream comprises one of a Moving Picture Experts Group-4 (MPEG-4) data stream or a Windows Media 9 (WM9) data stream.
3.     **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said downloading a computer program code to said CPC further comprises:  
providing a boot code program configured to detect said upgrade decoder; and  
if said upgrade decoder is detected, initializing said boot code program.
4.     **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said program is configured to cause said CPC to:  
receive said data stream;  
transmit said data stream to said upgrade decoder to be decoded; and  
receive a decoded data stream from said updated decoder.
5.     **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said removable upgrade decoder further comprises:

an interface field programmable gate array (FPGA) configured to interface with said CPC; and

a signal decoder, wherein said signal decoder is configured to increase a signal decoding capability of said CPC.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein said signal decoder comprises one of an MPEG 4 decoder or a WM9 decoder.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a compressed audio/video data stream;

transmitting said compressed audio/video data stream to said signal decoder; and

decoding said compressed audio/video data stream with said signal decoder.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 7, wherein said transmitting said compressed audio/video data stream to said signal decoder comprises:

locally encrypting said compressed audio/video data stream in said CPC;

transmitting said encrypted compressed audio/video data stream to said removable upgrade decoder; and

locally decrypting said encrypted compressed audio/video data stream in said removable upgrade decoder.

9. **(Original)** A consumer premise component (CPC), comprising:

a tuner;

a demodulator;

a first interface field programmable gate array (FPGA) communicatively coupled to said demodulator; and

a first signal decoder communicatively coupled to said interface field programmable gate array;

wherein said first interface FPGA is configured to be communicatively coupled to a removable upgrade decoder, said removable upgrade decoder including a second interface FPGA communicatively coupled to a second signal decoder.

10. **(Original)** The CPC of claim 9, wherein said CPC comprises one of a set-top box, a receiver unit, a digital video recorder (DVR), a digital video disk (DVD) player, or an integrated receiver decoder.

11. **(Original)** The CPC of claim 9, wherein said first interface FPGA is further configured to download a computer program code configured to enable said CPC to access said upgrade decoder.

12. **(Original)** The CPC of claim 11, wherein said first interface FPGA is further configured to:

provide a boot code program configured to detect said upgrade decoder; and  
if said upgrade decoder is detected, initialize said boot code program.

13. **(Original)** The CPC of claim 9, wherein said first interface FPGA is further configured to:

locally encrypt audio/video signals prior to transmission; and  
locally decrypt received encrypted audio/video signals.

14. **(Original)** The CPC of claim 9, wherein said first interface FPGA further comprises a hot-plug buffer configured to allow said removable upgrade decoder to be hot-swapped with said CPC.

15. **(Original)** The CPC of claim 9, wherein said upgrade decoder is configured to decode one of a Moving Picture Experts Group-4 (MPEG-4) data stream or a Windows Media 9 (WM9) data stream.

16. **(Original)** The CPC of claim 9, further comprising a plurality of buffers and filters communicatively coupled to said first signal decoder.

17. **(Original)** The CPC of claim 9, wherein said upgrade decoder is configured to receive a coded data stream and decode said coded data stream into a data format compatible with said first signal decoder.

18. **(Original)** An upgrade decoder comprising:  
an interface field programmable gate array (FPGA) configured to interface with a consumer premise component (CPC); and  
a signal decoder, wherein said signal decoder is configured to increase a signal decoding capability of said CPC.

19. **(Original)** The upgrade decoder of claim 18, wherein said upgrade decoder is configured to be removably coupled to said CPC.

20. **(Original)** The upgrade decoder of claim 18, wherein said signal decoder comprises one of a Moving Picture Experts Group-4 (MPEG-4) data stream decoder or a Windows Media 9 (WM9) data stream decoder.

21. **(Original)** The upgrade decoder of claim 18, wherein said FPGA further comprises:  
an encryption/decryption engine configured to locally encrypt and decrypt audio/video signals; and  
a hot-plug buffer configured to allow said upgrade decoder to be hot-swapped with said CPC.

22. **(Original)** A processor readable medium having instructions thereon for:

detecting the presence of an upgrade decoder communicatively coupled to a consumer premise component (CPC);  
downloading a program code enabling said CPC to access said upgrade decoder;  
and  
if said upgrade decoder is detected, running said downloaded program code.

23. **(Original)** The processor readable medium of claim 22, wherein said downloading a program code further comprises:  
downloading a boot code program configured to detect said upgrade decoder; and  
if said upgrade decoder is detected, initializing said boot code program.

24. **(Original)** The processor readable medium of claim 22, further having instructions thereon for:  
passing a received media signal to said upgrade decoder for decoding;  
receiving a decoded media signal from said upgrade decoder; and  
further processing said decoded media signal through traditional circuitry in said CPC.

25. **(Original)** The processor readable medium of claim 24, wherein said instructions for passing a received media signal to said upgrade decoder for decoding further comprises instructions for locally encrypting said received media signal prior to passing said received media signal to said upgrade decoder.